

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for indexing voice mail messages, comprising:
 - receiving and storing one or more voice mail messages from one or more callers;
 - determining an identity of each of the one or more callers in each of the one or more voice mail messages (1) by comparing speech signals from each of the one or more voice mail messages with one or more caller speaker models and (2) based on an analysis of the content of each of the one or more voice mail messages;
 - tagging each of the one or more voice mail messages with the respective determined identity and a matching score of the respective determined identity of the caller for each respective voice mail message; and
 - when the determined identity of the caller of a voice mail message cannot be determined to a threshold certainty:
 - tagging the voice mail message from the caller as unknown;
 - receiving an indicated identity of the caller from a voice mail subscriber;
 - if the received indicated identity does not match any known identities, creating a new storage folder for voice mail messages from the caller corresponding to the received indicated identity; and
 - if the received indicated identity matches a known identity, modifying a speaker model associated with the known identity based on speech signals in the voicemail message associated with the received indicated identity.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more caller speaker models are created from one or more voice mail messages left by a same caller.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more speaker models are created using acoustic features extracted from the voice mail message, the acoustic features extracted using speaker recognition techniques.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for indexing voice mail messages, comprising:
~~receiving and storing~~ one or more voice mail messages from one or more callers;
determining an identity of each of the one or more callers in each of the one or more voice mail messages (1) by comparing speech signals from each of the one or more voice mail messages with one or more caller speaker models and (2) based on an analysis of the content of each of the one or more voice mail messages;
tagging each of the one or more voice mail messages with the respective determined identity ~~and a matching score of the respective determined identity of the caller for each respective voice mail message~~; and
when the determined identity of the caller of a voice mail message cannot be determined to a threshold certainty:
tagging that voice mail message as unknown; and

receiving an indicated identity of the caller from a voice mail subscriber, wherein if the voice mail message is tagged as unknown, receiving further comprises creating a new storage folder for voice mail messages from the caller corresponding to the received caller identity, and if the received indicated identity matches a previously created speaker model, receiving further comprises adapting the previously created speaker model based on speech signals in the voice mail message associated with the speaker.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the identity of each of the one or more callers in each of the one or more voice mail messages includes the substep of:

using automatic number identification to assist in determining the caller's identity.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the identity of each of the one or more callers includes the substep of:

using speech recognition techniques to extract caller identity information from the one or more voice mail messages.

11-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system for processing voice mail messages, the system comprising:

means for receiving and storing one or more voice mail messages;

means for determining an identity of a speaker of each of the one or more voice mail messages (1) by comparing speech signals from each of the voice mail messages with a group of

speaker models and (2) based on an analysis of the content of each of the one or more voice mail messages;

means for tagging each of the one or more voice mail messages with the respective determined identity ~~and a matching score of the respective determined identity of the speaker for each respective voice mail message; [[and]]~~

means for, when the determined identity of the speaker of a voice mail message cannot be determined to a threshold certainty, tagging the voice mail message as unknown, receiving an indicated identity of the speaker from a voice mail subscriber and creating a new storage folder for voice mail messages from the speaker corresponding to the received indicated identity; and

means for adapting a previously created speaker model associated with the speaker based on speech signals in the voice mail message associated with the speaker.

25. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the speaker models are created from one or more voice mail messages left by a same caller.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the speaker models are created using acoustic features extracted from the one or more voice mail messages, the acoustic features extracted using speaker recognition techniques.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the voice mail message tagged as unknown is used to adapt [[a]] the previously created speaker model.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the means for determining an identity of a speaker of each of the one or more voice mail messages further comprises means for using automatic number identification to assist in determining the identity of the speaker.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the means for determining an identity of a speaker of each of the one or more voice mail messages further comprises means for using speech recognition techniques to extract caller identity information from each one of the one or more voice mail messages.